

## CHINESE WOMAN IN AMERICA.

She is With Us, but Not of Us, and Retains Her Native Customs.

The Chinese woman differs from all others who come to this country to pass away their lives, in that she seeks not our companionship, makes no attempt whatever to become acquainted with us, pays no attention in the least to the American mode of living, heeds not our dress and customs, and in fact is as distant as it is possible for one to be. True, she lives among us, but is as isolated as if she and the few Chinese relatives who may happen to be here were the only human beings in the world.

If one desires to become acquainted with her, and wishes to glean some knowledge of a type of which so very little is known, he must seek her, as she is surely not looking for him. She will be more than pleased with your advances, and will greet you with all the demure politeness possible, but all eternity could pass and she would not venture to seek you. Having braced yourself up and made the initiative bow, you will find that her former reserve was due to the fact that she was trained to be shy of all strangers, but a few moments' conversation will clearly demonstrate the fact that she is not so shy as she is reported to be. You also find, despite the popular idea that the Chinese woman is phlegmatic, that she is brimful of feelings and impressions, and has sensibilities as acute as a child's. That she is perfectly contented to live narrowly, restricted entirely to the companionship of one man and perhaps a couple of females, does not prove lack of imagination, but merely that she is grossly ignorant of any other life.

She is born probably in Pekin, Canton, or near that great city. Until the age of 12 she enjoys almost as much liberty as the average American child, but in China it is not considered just the proper thing for girls to have boy companions after that age. Then she was taught the rudimentary elements of sewing and embroidery, how to do light cooking and how to amuse herself by singing a few ballads. She was also taught that while with them obedience to her mother and father was her very first duty, and after marriage to the parents of her husband. She never had a sweetheart, but with her girl companions she would while away the hours in describing the beauties and virtues of future husbands.

In spite of these seeming restraints, which would seem so hard for the typical American girl to endure, the years passed quickly by, and the time when she was to become an American bride was at hand—for the Chinese woman who comes to America generally comes to be married, having been sent for by some Chinaman, who has been in the United States or Canada for perhaps eight or ten years and has an established business. She has never seen her future husband, and has, perhaps, never ventured out of her native village, yet upon being apprised for that divine kingdom—the expectant bridegroom, like Isaac of old, when courting Rebecca, would bestow many costly presents of both silver and gold upon the mother and father, or guardians of his future wife—she must leave home, friends and native land and, she cheerfully sets about to prepare for her long journey. She may shed a few tears upon her mother's breast, and might, perhaps, show considerable fear at such a long and lonely trip, but on the whole she is happy and contented.

Her friends and companions generally look upon her with envy, for nothing but a well-to-do Chinaman would ever think of securing a wife in America. The chief reason is, however, that the girl, when she comes here to marry, is not subjected to her mother-in-law's will as she is in her native land. In that strange country she is compelled to reside with her husband's family and act as their new daughter, and unless she is a pleasantly disposed young miss serious trouble may arise. If there is a disagreement the son and father take the mother's part, thus forcing the new wife to acknowledge her mistake, and maybe this wouldn't be a pleasant task in this country. The Chinese woman who comes to America also has the advantage in selecting her own costumes. In China she would be compelled to wear a cheap cotton dress, and while it is true that she is not very well impressed with the fast changing style of the American belle's dress, yet she dresses comparatively well, and is always of a very neat appearance. Chinamen who have established businesses in either this country or Canada, and who send home for wives, generally select them from the middle class. Aristocratic families would not permit their daughters to become the wife of a man who lives in exile, and Lee, being able to keep a wife in America, does not feel justified in taking one from the common ranks. He desires to have his friends think he made a wise selection, and if he chooses a girl of mean condition he

is open to ridicule. The Chinaman knows little or nothing about natural selection, though in his youth he had a sweetheart, and when he seeks a wife he sends for a stranger. So to speak they do their loving after marriage.

The Chinese woman in America lives generally on the top floor of her husband's dwelling, his business being on the ground floor. He is an exceedingly good husband, and secures for her comfort all that her little mind can wish for. Her apartments are very tidy, clean and neat, and are furnished with American goods in the American style, with the exception of a few rugs and ornaments on the tables and walls. In the center of another room can be seen her incense vase, an ancestral table, a kneeling stool, a pair of candle sticks and her private chapel. She will show you all her pretty ornaments, her jewelry and fine clothing, admire yours, and even say it is prettier than her own, will show you her chapel, but will not invite you to enter it. There she will pray that her husband will prosper in business; that she will always be happy; that her husband may be kind, and that she may live to die in her native land.

She seldom goes out, and does not receive visitors until she has been a wife for at least two years. Even then, if she has no children, she is supposed to hide herself, but after one is born she begins to wander about, and is then the hostess of many cousins and friends who drop in occasionally to see the "family." Now and then the women visit one another and when they come together such a clatter is heard that one would readily think two American women had met, after enduring such a fate as not seeing each other for twenty-four hours. They laugh at the slightest remark and scream when a joke is made. They examine each other's dress, hair, hats and feet, talk about their husbands, their babies, about the house and about the food, and finally depart by curiously shaking their own hands in each other's faces.

They are very modest, and if it becomes their duty to pass a room occupied by men they do so in a hurry with their faces hidden, not because they are shy, but because it is the custom of their country. Despite the fact that she does not read much or frequent places of amusement, the Chinese woman does not allow time to drag on her hands while in this country. There are many beautiful thoughts in her mind, and she gives expression to them in the many dainty little pieces of lace and embroidery she knits from time to time. These are not wasteful in her eyes, for she uses them as tokens of love and friendship to the many friends and relatives she left in China when she became an American bride. She is a great lover of flowers, both natural and artificial, and if not supplied with the former makes herself great quantities of the latter, which she displays with considerable taste in her hair and on her dress.

She is very tidy, indeed, with her person, as well as with her house, and takes as long to make her toilet as does the average American woman. It is her hair that bothers her more than anything else, and it will take her half her time to prepare this. She puts it flat at the back and decorates it elaborately with flowers and fans. Her tresses are very neat, and if dressed becomingly would be considered attractive, but the manner in which she plasters them back from her high forehead would spoil the prettiest face. While it is true that some are very pleasant to behold, with their little, soft faces, oval eyes, small round mouths and raven hair, the ordinary Chinese woman does not strike the casual observer as lovely. She is, however, always odd and interesting.

Like all women she is vain, but her vanity cannot be compared with that of the average American woman. The Chinese woman paints and powders, ornaments herself with jewelry, wears rings on her fingers and bracelets on her arms, but that egotistical air that is so apparent in the American girl does not appear. She is, like her American sister, interested in all matters pertaining to dress, and if an American woman calls on her will politely examine her dress with many expressions of admiration. She will even acknowledge that it is much prettier than her own, but under no circumstances could be induced to wear it. She is interested and listens attentively to all you may tell her about Americans and the doings of the American people, but no amount of persuasion will cause her to abide by the American style of living and dress.

If asked why she does this or that thing in such a way her invariable reply is that it is the Chinese style. She is a strong holder on of the doings of her native people, and seems to adhere to their teachings with all sincerity. As a mother she resembles

any other young mother, perhaps being a little more childish, but just as devoted. When her baby is in good health she is as happy as a lark, and will rattle Chinese talk to him by the hour, but when he is ill she is solemn and cannot be comforted. She dresses him in the Chinese costume, shaves his head, and strings amulets on his neck and wrists.

The Chinese women are very superstitious, and should one announce the fact that they knew the hour and date of the birth of her child she would become historic, for above all things this is a secret among them which they believe if revealed will bring misfortune to the child to the longest day of its life. It will be a source of much worry and torment to the remainder of her days.

One should not for a minute entertain the idea that the Chinese woman is dull of comprehension, or that she is unable to distinguish a friendly visitor from one who comes to have fun at her expense. The writer, while recently in Mott street, New York, saw one little Chinese woman turn her back upon a person who approached her with a companion, to whom she whispered and smiled knowingly. The Chinese woman is very pleasing and grateful to those who she believes are her real friends and is untiring in her efforts to please them, many times remembering them with gifts of affection.

The Chinese woman is more constant than sentimental. She has a true affection for her husband and no other person except her baby has any right to her love. She takes no responsibility upon herself and wishes none, as she has explicit confidence in her husband. She lives happily in the hope of some day returning to China. She does not feel any bitterness because she lives in exile, and expresses her pleasure at visiting this country, but she would not be a daughter of the "Flowery Kingdom" were she to die here among strangers.

JOHN G. CHALLICE.

## HOT FROM HADES.

With Apologies to Mr. John Kendrick Bangs.

Greenville News.

K-r-r-r-if-n-g.  
"Hello."  
"Central, give me Hades on Greenville, please."  
"Hello."  
"Hello—is that you, Satan?"  
"Yes."  
"Any news floating around down there?"  
"No, everything is quiet."  
"But surely there must be some excitement over the 'inevitable war.'"

"Well, yes, the Spanish element down here is a wee bit disturbed. Night before last Senator Mason was burned in effigy and a number of recontra-dos were set on fire."  
"Is Napoleon Bonaparte down there?"  
"Most assuredly."  
"Call him to the phone."  
"Hello?"  
"Hello, Nap—What do you think of the war?"

"Well, from a casual reading of the yellow newspapers, I should say that the United States are going to walk over to Spain and knock her face off with a copy of the New York Journal."  
"Wouldn't you like to be in the fracas, Nap?"  
"I'm hungry for it, boy; I've Bonaparte in so many great battles that, very naturally, my pulse quickens when I sniff the glorious ozone of gun powder."

"Well, don't you think that the Maine was blown up by Spanish design?"  
"No, I'm rather inclined to think it was a submarine mine."  
"But don't you think the Spanish had a hand in it?"  
"Everybody down here thinks so except Ananias."

"He hates the United States because the newspaper men there know so much more about lying than he does."  
"Then I take it that Ananias is not popular with you people."  
"No, he is despised. The other day he was bragging about the fact that he was the only man that had been struck dead for lying, when George Washington, with a satirical curl of the lip, told him that he didn't have the ability to manufacture a real artistic fabrication and offered to bet him six ounces of brimstone that he died of a simple old case of heart failure."

"And what did Ananias say?"  
"Oh, he was furious the is very proud of his record for mendacity, you know, and he retorted with spirit that as George claimed to be the father of his country he had better stop his poor little orphans from playing in Spain's back yard unless he wanted them blown higher than the Milky Way. This, of course, aroused George's ire and they began to scarp. Lot's wife, who happened to be looking back at the time, saw that George was pounding the ichor out of his adversary and she sailed in to help Ananias out. They were having a real salty time of it when Satan came up and put a quietus on the disturbance."

"I suppose George and Ananias are no longer on good terms?"

"Well, I should say not. George says that Ananias poses as the champion falsifier of the ages when, as a matter of fact, that little cherry tree incident which he worked in on posterity, completely overshadows anything Ananias ever did."

"Nap, I suppose all this war talk stirs the blood of you fellows who have seen hard service."

"Yes, that's true; I was talking in reminiscent vein to old Tecumseh Sherman the other day. He said the warmest episode in his experience was when he burnt Columbia. Then I told him about that little episode in my career when I burnt the wind from Moscow with the cossacks and other wolfish specimens of inhumanity in my wake."

"By the way, Nap, didn't you make one of your famous short, terse speeches on that occasion which history has neglected?"

"Yes, and it was one of the best speeches I ever made, too."

"Tell us about it, Nap."

"Well, when we arrived at Moscow the town was deserted; everybody had vamooseed and not a morsel of food could we find. It was tough. My soldiers were discouraged and I knew I had to rely on my power as a military genius to get them back to France. It was then that I rose to the occasion and made one of the best speeches of my life. 'Comrades,' I cried, 'this is Moscow, dreary and deserted, the home of the bat and the play ground of the chinch; far away over yonder, where the blue haze flirts with the horizon and little stars never cry for their Mars, lies Sunny France. Comrades, gird up your loins and right about face for we Mos cow back to France.'"

"And you went back, did you not?"

"Yes, but oh! what a welcome I did get! When I left Paris for Moscow the bands played 'Hail to the Chief,' but when I returned they played 'Hail to the chief and—well—here I am.'"

"Well, Nap, you did play in hard luck. But tell me, is Shakespeare within call just now?"

"Yes."

"Tell him to come to the 'phone.'"

"Hello."

"Hello, is that you Shakey?"

"Mortal man, why dost thou thus speak to me thusly? To converse with thee I would not deign, so hold thy peace, hang up the phone, for I return at once to finish a game of 'craps' which your impertinent summons so rudely interrupted."

"All right, Billy, but before you exult yourself call Satan to the 'phone again, will you?"

"Hello."

"Hello, Satan, pardon me for interrupting you again—but tell me—are there any recent arrivals worthy of mention?"

"Yes, Iconoclast Brann came down the other day."

"Indeed, and what do you think of him?"

"Oh, he's a hot number, his temperament is something phenomenal. You ought to have seen him the other day when he met Dr. Samuel Johnson. Both of them you know are prone to sesquipedality. They got to talking about the present war excitement, Johnson was for peace; Brann argued gunpowder and plenty of it. Johnson finally lost patience and told Brann he didn't have sense enough to count wiggle tails in Spain's rain barrel."

Whereas Brann retorted that Johnson was nothing but a scorbatic tubercle on the scroll of fame and deserved to be kicked into the vast infinitude of nescience. Just at this juncture, however, Boswell intervened and a red-hot scrimmage was fortunately averted."

"Well, Satan, I must bid you good bye. I am under many obligations to you for the privilege of this interview. Give my regards to Mrs. Satan and the kids."

"Most assuredly I will, and the next time you tell that promising boy of mine, Ben Tillman, just tell him that you saw me. Bless his incorruptible soul, he grows more like his dad every day."

"All right, Satan: ta ta."

"Good bye."

Ting-a-ling.

J. A. SULLIVAN.

The most awkward man in the world without doubt lives in Tennessee. He recently shot a dog, and in explaining the accident to the dog's owner shot him. Later, in showing how the tragedy occurred he shot the coroner. He has been liberated now for fear he will try to explain it to somebody else.

## CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson.

The farmers should plant all the corn, potatoes and grain that they can cultivate. Besides, they ought to raise all the hogs and cattle possible. The war will cause all food stuffs to rise in price, and the South should do all in its power to be independent this year.

## Facts About Cuba.

The powerful and righteous reasons which impelled the Cubans to revolt against the continued domination of Spain, and engage in a war for independence, are generally known and heartily sympathized with, but there is less familiarity with the character of the country and its wonderful resources in time of peace. Of an irregular crescent shape, Cuba is much larger than popularly supposed, for it is 730 miles long, has an average width of 80 miles and an area of 43,319 square miles, without including its adjacent islands, which add over 2,000 square miles more. Although mountainous in the interior, much of the coast line is low and flat, and difficult of approach on account of the numerous reefs and small islands. Notwithstanding this feature of the coast, it is said that no other island in the world has as many excellent harbors in proportion to its size. Of these Havana, Mantanzas, Bahia, Honda, Mariel, Nuevitas, Nipe and Cardenas, on the north side, and Santiago de Cuba, Trinidad, Guantanamo and Cienfuegos on the south side, are the principal and best known.

The island of Cuba is divided into six provinces, the most thickly populated of which is Havana, and the least is Puerto Principe. The total population before the present insurrection was over 1,600,000, but it is estimated that at least 500,000 have since perished in battle, by disease and by starvation. Although there is much cleared and cultivated land, there are no less than 20,000,000 acres of almost impenetrable forest, fully 13,000,000 of which have never been disturbed by man. But the soil which has been cultivated is marvelously rich and productive. To what extent this is so is shown by the fact that, notwithstanding the discouragements to industrial enterprises through the misrule of Spain, the exports in 1893 were valued at over \$9,000,000 Spanish dollars.

Notwithstanding the prevalence of yellow fever in the seacoast cities and towns, the greater part of Cuba is said under normal conditions to be a very healthy place. Although not altogether in the tropics, it has all the characteristics of the torrid region. It has a wet and dry season, and except in few spots in the mountains not even light frosts. The prevailing temperature is not unpleasantly hot, for the highest is rarely over 82 degrees, while the average is 77 degrees.

The chief agricultural products are sugar, coffee and tobacco, of which the United States takes the greater part. In 1893, for example, there were 815,894 tons of sugar produced, of which 718,204 tons were exported, the United States taking 680,642 tons. Of 227,000 bales of tobacco exported two-thirds came to this country, together with more than half the 147-365,000 cigars made. But while the exports footed up a total of \$9,000,000 Spanish dollars, and the imports \$56,000,000, the taxation on the people reached nearly 25,000,000 Spanish dollars. Of this tremendous burden, which is more than one-sixth the combined value of the imports and exports, less than one-half came from the customs, and one-fourth of the whole is entirely diverted from the island to the uses of the Spanish crown.

It is supposed that the negro race either predominates in point of numbers in Cuba, or at least nearly so; but this does not appear to be the fact, for just before the rebellion it was estimated that there were less than 500,000 of this race on the island, against over 1,000,000 whites and about 50,000 Chinese. Of the whites, the native born, or Cubans, are by far the best educated, but neither the mass of the Spanish residents nor the negroes are overburdened with scholastic knowledge. There seems no doubt that under proper government the wealth of Cuba would be prodigious, and even with a poor rule, but free from the oppression of Spain, it should be of more than ordinary proportions.

The fact that you have cherished a base thought for even a moment ought to cause your cheek to flush with shame.

A torpid liver robs you of ambition and ruins your health. DeWitt's Little Kidney Pills cleanse the liver, cure constipation and all stomach and liver troubles. Evans Pharmacy.

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The English language contains 11 distinct sounds.

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OFFICE—Front Room, over Farmers and Merchants Bank—ANDERSON, S. O. Feb 9, 1898.

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